DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 284 376 EC 192 787

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TITLE Paper on Data Describing Disabled Students in Post Secondary Education Taken from a Survey Study on: Needs of Students in Post Secondary Education in the State of Washington.
INSTITUTION Washington Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Olympia.
PUB DATE [87]
NOTE 22p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Age Differences; *College Students; *Disabilities; Higher Education; Postsecondary Education; State Surveys; Student Attitudes; *Student Characteristics; *Student Financial Aid; Student Personnel Services; Vocational Schools
IDENTIFIERS *Washington

ABSTRACT

Disabled students (N=983) in the state of Washington were surveyed regarding what they felt they needed in postsecondary education services and facilities to gain the best possible education; 432 completed survey questionnaires were returned. The purpose of this paper is to describe how students' characteristics vary with the type of postsecondary school they attend in the state of Washington. Sample results from the tables which make up the bulk of the document include the following: Students' ages ranged from 19 through 36 years. The average age of all disabled students was 31.6 years, with a standard deviation of 10.2 years. Students with systemic/neurological disabilities had the oldest average age of 36.2 years. Those with learning disorders had the youngest average age of 26.5 years. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation was a significant contributor of financial support across all groups, and was cited by community college and vocational students as the biggest source of financial aid and as the third source for 4-year college students after Supplementary Security Income and Workers' Compensation. College financial aid was the largest source of support for the college students. One-to-one assistance, tutoring, job placement, notetakers, personal counseling, and disability parking ranked highest in terms of student facility and student needs. (CB)

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PAPER

on

Data Describing Disabled Students

in Post Secondary Education

taken from a survey study on:

Needs of Students in Post Secondary Education In The State of Washington

Prepared for the

"Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped"

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EC192787

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This Survey was prepared by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and distributed to disabled students in post secondary education in the State of Washington, to learn what these students thought they needed in service and facilities to gain the best possible education in post secondary schools in this state.

Our objective in this paper is to describe how disabled students' characteristics vary with the type of post secondary school they attend in the State of Washington.

There were 983 survey questionnaires distributed to 49 post secondary schools in the State of Washington during the month of May 1985. The total disabled student population at that time was estimated to be about 3,700 students. There were 432 completed surveys returned.

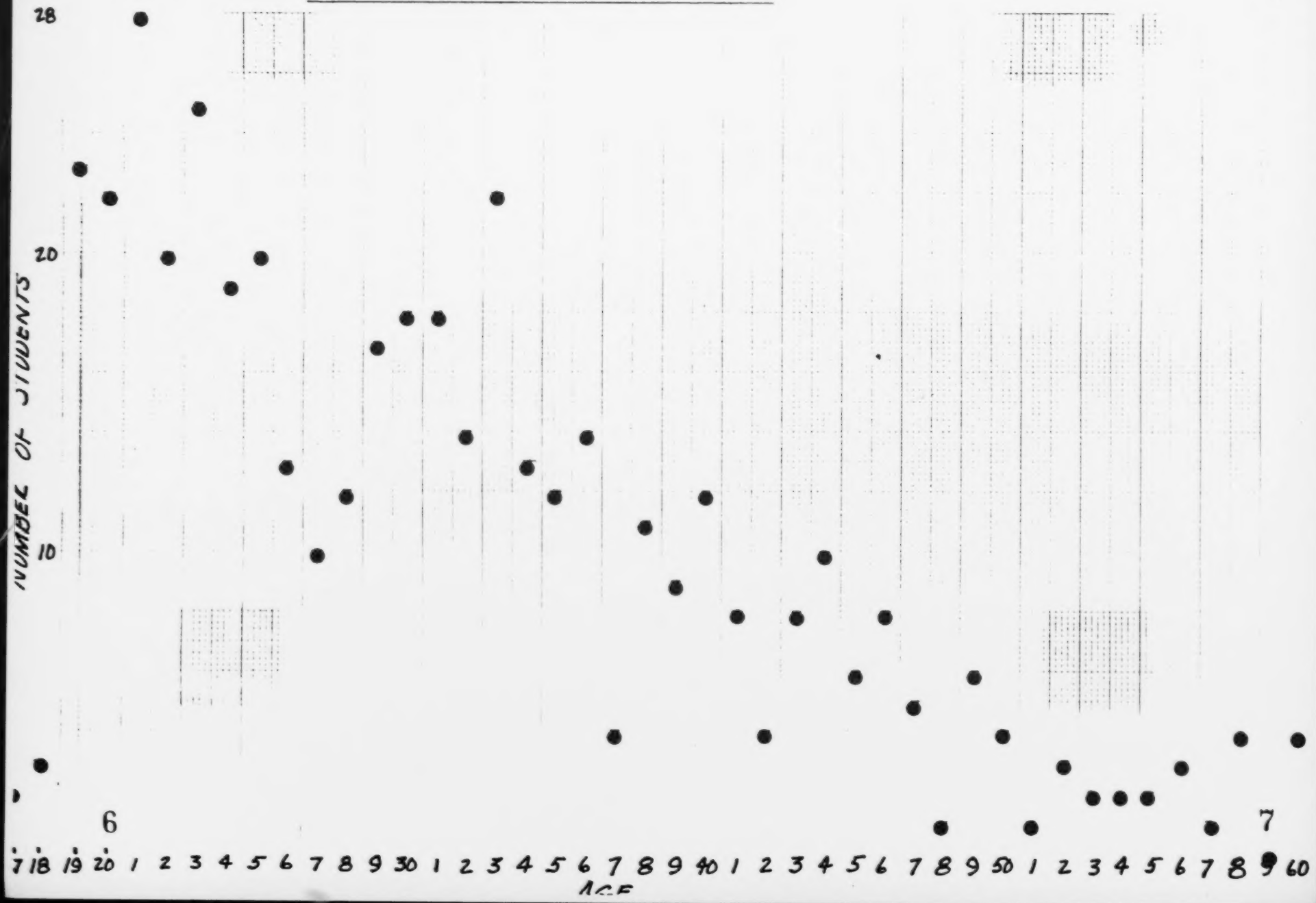
The average age, according to survey results, for all students was 31.6 years. One standard deviation of the sample data was 10.2 years. The ages appear to be bi-modal. For other studies to be comparable, i.e. if the other study's population is about the same as this one, we would expect the mean average age to be within one standard deviation equal to .5 years which is about an incidence 66 times out of 100.

The mean average and standard deviation vary by disability. Students with systemic/neurological disabilities had an average age of 36.2 years. Those with diagnosed learning disorder disabilities had an average age of 26.5 years. One standard deviation ranged from a high of 11.3 years for students with head injuries to 7.9 years for those with diagnosed learning disorders.

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION & RESPONSE

Type of School	Percent Return	Original Distribution	Number of Returns
Voc-Tech	47 %	153	72
Community Colleges	39	529	207
Private Colleges & Universities	38	148	56
Public Colleges & Universities	62	157	97
Total		987	432

AGE OF DISABLED STUDENTS as of MAY 1985



AGE ANALYSIS - ALL RESPONDENTS

	Number	Standard Deviation	Average(Mean)
Total	446	10.2 Yrs.	31.6 Yrs.
Male	241	10.4	32.1
Female	205	9.9	30.9

AGE ANALYSIS - SELECTED DISABILITY GROUPS

	Standard Deviation	Average(Mean)
Blind	10.1 Yrs	32.7 Yrs.
Deaf	10.3	26.8
Spinal	10.5	31.4
Orthopedic	8.9	35.2
Systemic	13.0	36.2
Multiple Sclerosis	10.8	34.8
Cerebral Palsy	7.6	27.3
Head Injury	11.3	31.8
Diag.Learning Disorder	7.9	26.5

Disabled students in selected post secondary schools ranged in mean average age from 36 years (Clark College) to 19.8 years (University of Puget Sound). One standard deviation ranged from a high of 11.3 years (Seattle Pacific University) to one year (University of Puget Sound).

At first glance it may appear that students in schools in areas generally known for their higher levels of economic income have the lowest average age and standard deviation. Or that students in schools offering more advanced degrees had a lower average age and standard deviation.

To further investigate this we grouped post secondary schools in four categories: (1) Community Colleges, (2) Vocational-Technical schools, (3) Private Colleges & Universities, and (4) Public Colleges & Universities.

Public colleges and universities had the highest percentage of returned completed surveys, with 62 percent. Community colleges returned the most completed surveys (207).

We see from the data that for community colleges and voc-tech schools the highest percentage of financial support was from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Disabled students attending colleges & universities had college financial aid as their largest source of financial support. Supplementary Security Income and Workers Compensation were the second most used sources of income for community college and voc-tech students.

AGE ANALYSIS - SELECTED SCHOOLS

	Standard Deviation	Average(Mean)
Bellevue Community College	5.9 Yrs.	24.5 Yrs.
Central Washington University	10.4	28.4
Clark College	8.2	36.0
Clover Park Voc-Tech	10.7	35.5
Everett Community College	8.8	32.1
Seattle Pacific University	11.3	31.7
University of Puget Sound	1.0	19.8
University of Washington	8.5	27.8
Highline Community College	11.0	29.8
Bates Voc-Tech	9.4	33.4
Pacific Lutheran University	7.8	24.7

AGE ANALYSIS - SELECTED FINANCIAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT

	Number	Standard Deviation	Average(Mean)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	40	9.8 Yrs.	32.6 Yrs.
Workers Compensation	28	9.4	39.1
Family	24	8.8	25.6

FINANCIAL SOURCE OF SUPPORT - TYPE OF POST SECONDARY SCHOOL

Percentage & Rank

	Community Colleges		Voc-Techs		Private Colleges & Universities		Public Colleges & Universities	
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Veterans Administration	5.1		7.4	(4)	2.1		7.5	
Supplemental Security Income	13.8	(2)	3.2		2.8		6.3	
S.S. Disability Insurance	7.3		6.4	(5)	3.6		6.9	
Old Age Survivors' Ins.	-		-		-		-	
Workers Compensation	9.5	(5)	19.1	(2)	-		.6	
Services For The Blind	4.0		-		2.1		2.5	
Div. Of Vocational Rehab.	19.2	(1)	35.1	(1)	15.6	(3)	11.9	(3)
Div. of Developmental Disab.	1.3		-		.7		.6	
Public Assistance Or Welfare	5.4		5.3		1.4		6.9	
Private Insurance	1.1		-		1.4		.6	
Paid Employment	2.2		1.1		5.0		11.2	(4)
Scholarship	1.9		2.1		9.9	(5)	4.4	
College Financial Aid	12.7	(3)	9.6	(3)	19.9	(1)	18.7	(1)
Family	10.3	(4)	4.3		19.9	(2)	13.1	(2)
Other	6.2		6.4	(5)	15.6	(4)	8.8	(5)
	100 %		100 %		100 %		100 %	

At colleges and universities the second largest source of financial aid was from the family.

Listed below are the percentages of disabled students by category, with two or more dependents:

	Percentage
Community Colleges	38%
Voc-Techs	60%
Private Colleges & Universities	36%
Public Colleges & Universities	21%

Voc-Techs according to the survey tabulation had 5.6 percent of the disabled students with six or more dependents. This does seem hard to believe. We might add here that the disabled students completed these surveys, and it was their option to send the completed surveys directly to GCEH, with no review by school coordinators. Future surveys may verify data in the study by implementing personal interview procedures.

Over 80 percent of voc-tech disabled students planned to complete their education in the current school within one year. Other school categories showed at least two years more of schooling for 80 percent of the students. It is interesting that in community colleges 18 percent of those completing the survey did not know how long they would be in their current school.

To summarize them by school category, based upon the data in this report.

DISABLED STUDENTS & NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS

By Percentage of Total - By Type of Post Secondary School

	Number of Dependents						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 & More
Community Colleges	19.2%	43.3%	16.3%	9.8%	9.4%	1.5%	.5%
Voc Techs	9.7	30.5	27.8	13.9	8.3	4.2	5.6
Private Coll. & Univ.	27.3	36.4	18.2	5.4	7.3	5.4	-
Public Coll. & Univ.	16.8	62.1	8.4	6.3	3.2	3.2	-

THE NUMBER OF YEARS DISABLED STUDENTS PLAN TO FINNISH CURRENT SCHOOL

By Percentage of Total - By Type of Post Secondary School

	Number of Years							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Unknown
Community Colleges	25.1%	31.7%	13.6%	5.0%	1.0%	1.0%	4.5%	18.1%
Voc -Techs	47.8	42.0	10.2					
Private Coll. & Univ.	20	34	30	14	2			
Public Coll. & Univ.	17.1	34.1	27.3	13.6	2.3	2.3	3.4	

	COMMUNITY COLLEGES	VOC-TECHS	PRIVATE C & U	PUBLIC C & U
Income Source of Disabled Students	DVR	DVR	College Financial Aid	College Financial Aid
	Supplemental Security Income	Workers' Compensation	Family	Family
% of Disabled Students with 2 or more dependents	38%	60%	36%	21%
Average age of Disabled Students	31.4	34.8	30.6*	30.0

Finally, we wish to draw attention to the last chart in this paper which lists those services and facilities disabled students completing the questionnaire felt would be most helpful in their quest for an education. We have taken one approach in this paper (age and economics) to describe differences of disabled students. We would hope this description will provide a basis for further discussion, and more importantly, action, which will help the disabled student in their pursuit of post secondary education. Others may see opportunities in the disabilities and their relationship to services required. There is a large amount of data in the original report, and many approaches may be taken.

* If Clark College is excluded the mean average age of this group is 27 years.

Six questions in the survey listed possible equipment, facility, academic aids, services, physical access, admission, and registration needs of the disabled student. We asked the respondent indicate which needs were preferred. Then we asked which were the three most important items listed in the above questions - the responses were as follows:

NEED	RESPONSES
One-to-one assistance with forms, etc.	92
Tutoring	85
Job placement	73
Notetakers	59
Personal counseling	50
Disability parking	50
Textbook tape recording	45
Career counseling/planning	44
Flexible testing arrangements	38
Priority registration	35
Off-campus transportation	33
Study skills training	32
Elevators	22
Automatic doors	20
Support groups or clubs	20
Pre-registration academic advising	19
Personal skills training	19
Adaptive physical education/athletics	16
Academic advising by professor/instructor	16
Academic advising	14
Typing Service	14
Tape recording	19
Chair design	14
Interperters	14
Lecture tapes	19
Large print service	13
Electric typewriter	13
Accessible on-campus housing	13
Pre-admission information sharing	10
Equipment maintenance & repair	10
General advising	9
Campus orientation & mobility training	8
Wheelchair accessible restrooms	8
Lighting	7
Special equipment for deaf or hard of hearing	6
Ramps	6
General information	5
Word processor	5
Diagnostic testing and/or assessment	4
Accessible off-campus housing	4
On-campus transportation	9
Computer	4
Financial aid	2
Accessible doors & entrances	2
New Student orientation	2
Personal needs assessment	2
Improved campus signs	2
Braille service	2
Door handles	2
Special equipment for vision impaired	2